

PATENT
Serial No. 09/787,096
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action mailed on January 23, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 23, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2, 4, 14 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15 and 17-23 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15 and 17-23 remain pending in this application, with claims 1, 13, 20 and 23 being the only independent claims.

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the present amendment are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to correct certain informalities noted upon review and for better conformance to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, Further, claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15 and 17-23 have been amended for better clarity and for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent

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claims with 'The' instead of 'A'. Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15 and 17-23 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4, 19 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 13 and 23 have been amended to include the allowable features of claim 4, which has been cancelled without prejudice along with claims 2, 14 and 16. Further, allowable claim 20 has been written in independent form, including amendments that are believed not to affect patentability thereof, as well as not including the features of intervening claim 5 which are believed to be not necessary for patentability.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 13, 20 and 23 should be allowable. Further, 3, 5-12, 15 and 17-22 should be allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 13.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or

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averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently beyond the fee for one additional independent claim to be charged to the credit card as noted by the enclosed authorization. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicants' representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By Dicran Halajian
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
April 14, 2006

Enclosure: New Abstract

Authorization to charge credit card \$200 for one independent claims in excess of three (i.e., four total independent claims)

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101